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On March 7, 1990, Bill Ripley of Action for Social Change in Kingston, Ontario, will begin a hunger strike to protest Canada's participation in Indonesian acts of genocide in East Timor and West Papua. The group is demanding that the Canadian government condemn Indonesian crimes against humanity in East Timor and West Papua, and call for the right to self-determination of the Timorese and Papuan peoples. The hunger strike will be held on the campus of Queen's University. The demands have been sent to Joe Clark and Brian Mulroney. (The list of demands is enclosed.)

Canada is on the UN Human Rights Commission, which is in sitting between January 29 and March 9. The issue of human rights abuses in East Timor is on the agenda. "They may adopt a resolution on East Timor, as did the Human Rights Sub-Commission last August," said Ripley. "But as a big investor in Indonesia, Canada might attempt to sabotage the resolution. Canadians must speak out against our government's complicity in genocide."

Elaine Brière, coordinator of the East Timor Alert Network, in Ladysmith, B.C., notes that Canada's complicity is quite direct. "Canadian tax dollars are propping up a genocidal regime and Canadians concerned about that should take action," she said.

East Timor, a former Portuguese colony situated 400 miles north of Darwin, Australia, was invaded by Indonesian armed forces on December, 7, 1975. FRETILIN, the *de facto* government of East Timor, had declared the country's independence only 9 days earlier.

Military operations directed against the Timorese, including saturation bombings and enforced starvation campaigns, have been regularly reported in the Australian press. The East Timor Alert Network and Amnesty International, among others, have estimated the death toll at over 200,000 people, approximately one third of the pre-invasion population.

West Papua, a former Dutch colony on the western half of New Guinea, was annexed by Indonesia under UN auspices in 1963, with the proviso that a plebiscite, or "Act of Free Choice," be held by 1969. During the six years leading up to this plebiscite, Indonesia waged a brutal crackdown on all political activity, and crushed uprisings by Papuans resisting Indonesia's abuse of power. Out of this resistance formed the Free Papua Movement (OPM), a political movement and guerrilla armed struggle. (The actual "referendum" was voted on by only 1,025 hand-picked Papuans, who, many under threat of death, voted unanimously in favour of integration into Indonesia.)

The number killed since 1963 from Indonesian military campaigns is estimated at over 100,000 people. Papuans have also seen their ancestral homelands destroyed by logging and mining companies, as well as by colonization from Indonesia, as part of the regime's Transmigration programme. World Bank statistics reveal that if the programme's targets are met, Papuans will be a minority in their own homeland by 1995.

Canada has $1.4 billion invested in Indonesia, ranking it third among investor nations. Since 1980, Canada has voted against UN resolutions demanding the immediate withdrawal of Indonesian troops, and calling for the East Timorese right to self-determination. All of these resolutions have passed.

Canadian military manufacturers, such as Pratt & Whitney, have been selling arms to the regime. In 1984, External Affairs hosted an arms show in Jakarta (the capital of Indonesia). According to a *Globe & Mail* report, the show exhibited the wares of 10 Canadian military manufacturers.

For more information, contact Action for Social Change at 544-2382.

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Mr. Clark:

On March 7, 1990, I will begin a hunger strike to protest Canada's support for Indonesian acts of genocide in East Timor and West Papua. The demands to be met by your government in order for the strike to end are as follows:

1. that the Canadian government condemn
   a) Indonesia's continued military campaigns against the Timorese and Papuan peoples
   b) the invasion and decimation of their ancestral homelands through colonization and commercial exploitation
   c) the programmes of forced cultural assimilation, which are destroying their ways of life
   d) Indonesia's enforced birth control programme, using dangerous contraceptive injectibles and implants, and the sterilization of Timorese and Papuan women, often without their knowledge or consent

2. that the Canadian government call for
   a) the immediate withdrawal of Indonesian troops from these lands
   b) the unrestricted access to all regions of East Timor and West Papua by the International Red Cross (ICRC) and all non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that respect the wishes and cultural autonomy of the Timorese and Papuan peoples
   c) an end to all plans for colonization from Indonesia (transmigration)
   d) a freeze on all non-indigenous commercial activity

3. that the Canadian government
   a) call for the right to self-determination of the Timorese and Papuan peoples
   b) vote in favour and work towards the introduction of such resolutions at the United Nations and other international fora

4. that the Canadian government cancel funding to Indonesia through the Inter-Governmental Group on Indonesia (IGGI), and withdraw from this consortium until all Indonesian troops have left East Timor and West Papua, and until the right to self-determination of the Timorese and Papuan peoples can be freely exercised

5. that the Canadian government launch an inquiry into
   a) Canadian arms sales to Indonesia
   b) the federal government's role in facilitating these transactions and concealing them from public scrutiny
   c) the extent to which this government involvement violates Canadian and international law

6. that the Canadian government initiate a review process, open to public participation, in which to analyse existing development aid to Indonesia, and to establish ethical guidelines, along with mechanisms by which they can be enforced, covering all future disbursements of such aid.

I can be reached by contacting the above address or telephone number.

Bill Ripley